

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 /131 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH HONDURAN AMBASSADOR GALVEZ

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 28 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR GALVEZ AND CEN DIRECTOR LAZAR, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT LATTER'S REQUEST, GALVEZ STATED THE FOLLOWING:

A) NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN BROKEN OFF. BATRES IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MEXICO CITY NOVEMBER 28 OR 29 TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS.

B) GALVEZ WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO WAS IN MEXICO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT BORGONOVO'S NONPARTICIPATION AND, INDEED, ABSENCE FROM EL SALVADOR DURING MUCH OF THIS PERIOD HAD PUZZLED AND TROUBLED THE GOH.

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C) HE BELIEVES THE ACTION OF THE GOH IN RENOUNCING THE

PACT OF BOGOTA WAS DELIBERATE AND PRE-PLANNED AND PROBABLY WAS ALWAYS PART OF THEIR SCENARIO FOR THESE TALKS.

COMMENT: GALVEZ HAD TALKED TO BATRES BY TELEPHONE ON FRIDAY NIGHT, THE 23RD AND AGAIN ON MONDAY, THE 26TH. THUS, THIS VIEW PROBABLY REPRESENTS MORE THAN GALVEZ' OWN PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW.

D) NOTWITHSTANDING THE GOES REJECTION OF ARBITRATION, THE HONDURAN DELEGATION IS WILLING TO EXPLORE, AT LEAST, OTHER "PEACEFUL MEANS OF SETTLEMENT" OF THIS DISPUTE ALTHOUGH WITHOUT MUCH HOPE OF SUCCESS. THE ESSENTIAL HONDURAN CONDITION, GALVEZ SAID, IS SOME AGREED DEVICE TO PUT A FIXED TIME LIMIT ON BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND AN AGREED NEXT STEP WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO A DEFINITIVE SOLUTION IF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. THE REAL ISSUE HERE, OF COURSE, IS THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.

E) GALVEZ EXPRESSED LACK OF OPTIMISM ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE TALKS. HE STATED THAT UNDER THE NEGOTIATED TERMS OF REFERENCE NO AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE BINDING ON EITHER PARTY IF FULL AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED BY DECEMBER 15 (WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO CHECK THIS). WHEN QUERIED AS TO LIKELY NEXT STEPS IN THE EVENT MEXICO NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, HE PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW OF ANY FURTHER PLANS.

F) GALVEZ WAS UNAWARE THAT CONTACT BETWEEN TROOP COMMANDERS ON THE FRONTIER HAD BEEN DISCONTINUED BUT AGREED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT, WERE THAT THE CASE, SUCH CONTACTS SHOULD BE REINITIATED. HE ALSO REFERRED TO HE USEFULNESS OF CONTACTS BETWEEN MOLINA AND LOPEZ.

2. AS YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION REGARDING ANY PLANS BY EITHER GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER STEPS IF THE MEXICO NEGOTIATIONS FAIL. KISSINGER

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